

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 SAM-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 INT-08 COME-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 NEA-11 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 011850Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6562

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 2933

DEPARTMENT FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR, EC

SUBJECT: ENERGY: U.S. VIEWS ON PROPOSAL FOR EC/ARAB COOPERATION
AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 019514

1. ECON/COM MIN CONVEYED TO BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, MFA, U.S. VIEWS ON COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL FOR
EC/ARAB COOPERATION AGREEMENTS.

2. BRUNET REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO DANGER THAT THE EC WOULD
MAKE ANY DECISIONS IN PRINCIPLE ON SUCH AN APPROACH BEFORE
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THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY LIKELIHOOD

THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN, HE OBSERVED WITH A TOUCH OF CYNICISM, THE FACT THAT THE U.S. DID NOT WANT IT TO HAPPEN WOULD HAVE BEEN SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT IT FROM HAPPENING. BUT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, HE SAID, WE COULD HAVE SAVED OURSELVES THE TROUBLE OF MAKING THIS DEMARCHE. THE COMMUNITY MACHINERY WAS GRINDING SO SLOWLY THAT THERE WAS NOT THE REMOTEST POSSIBILITY THAT A DECISION ON THIS QUESTION COULD BE REACHED BEFORE FEBRUARY 11. INDEED, BRUNET ADDED, IT HAD BECOME SO DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMUNITY TO ACT QUICKLY, OR EVEN ACT AT ALL, THAT HE WAS BECOMING DEEPLY DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPING COORDINATED COMMUNITY POSITIONS ON ANY OF THE GREAT ISSUES FACING EUROPE TODAY.

3. COMMENT: IT IS TEMPTING TO CONCLUDE THAT BRUNET IS SHEDDING CROCODILE TEARS OR THAT, IN ANY CASE, THE FRENCH HAVE NO ONE BUT THEMSELVES TO BLAME FOR THE CURRENT DISUNITY IN THE COMMUNITY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROBLEM IS MORE COMPLEX THAN THIS. IN FACT, MANY EUROPEAN-MINDED FRENCHMEN SUCH AS RAYMOND BARRE ARE DEEPLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. AND WHILE THEY RECOGNIZE THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT FRANCE MUST BEAR FOR THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS, THEY BELIEVE THAT FRANCE IS NOT THE ONLY CAUSE. THEY PUT EQUAL BLAME ON SHORTSIGHTED NATIONALISM OF THE UK AND ITALY, A TENDENCY WHICH THEY SAY IS EVEN BEGINNING TO INFECT GERMANY, AND ON THE ABSENCE OF STRONG POLITICIANS IN THE SMALLER COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF PLAYING A CONCILIATORY ROLE.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WASHINGTON WILL NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AS IT SEEKS TO ORGANIZE A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW AN EFFECTIVE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN BE CONSTRUCTED IF EUROPE IS IN DISARRAY. STONE

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